Mandrake Is Supposed to Resemble the Human Form

The mandrake or mandragora has been credited since ancient times with strange properties. Around it many legends have grown up. The true mandrake is a native of the Mediterranean region and it belongs to the Solanacea or potato family, according to a writer in the Montreal Herald. The mandrake of history is a plant with a large spindle-shaped root which was supposed to resemble the human form. It has a short stem bearing a strip of leaves and flowers. The latter are solitary and bell shaped and vary in color from white to purple. In olden days it was used as an emetic, purgative and narcotic and was much esteemed but it has since fallen into disrepute. Herbalists in England find a use for it for alleviating the suffering of rheumatism victims. The plant is reputed to grow on old battlefields, and was credited with having life, being engendered under the earth from the body of some dead person either killed in battle or murdered.

An old herbalist states that mandrakes could not be pulled from the earth without producing fatal effects, so a cord was fixed round a dog's neck, and the dog being chased drew out the mandrake, whereupon it died of fright when the plant shrieked on being uprooted. Still another superstition is that a small dose makes a person vain and conceited and a large dose makes him an idiot.

Largest Cattle Raising Country

Argentina is a cow country extraordinary. This nation has more cattle per capita than any other country in the world. Its record of three cattle per person exceeds that of the United States. It will be remembered that horses escaped from the Spaniards on the mainland of North America and multiplied on the fertile plains. Both wild horses and wild cattle multiplied on Argentina's pampas. Thus the Argentina gaucho (or cowboy) became a hunter of free-roaming cattle and horses, while the northern plainsman became a herder.

Nordic Drama of Creation

The old Nordic drama of creation is much longer than the Bible one. In the beginning, so the drama starts, there was no heaven, no earth, but in the middle a vast abyss, Ginnungagap. A hot wind struck against the ice of Ginnungagap, melting and dripping the ice into living drops, and the drops took the shape of man. Thus arose an immense giant, Ymir, and while Ymir was asleep a perspiration started all over his body; in his left armpit a man and a woman grew out . . and so on, for long interminable pages.

Redeeming Damaged Currency

Three-fifths or more of a mutilated United States paper bill is redeemable at face value by the treasury department. When less than three-fifths, but clearly more than two-fifths of the original bill remains it is redeemable at one-half of the face value of the original bill. Fragments containing less than three-fifths of the original bills are redeemable at full face value by the treasury of the United States if they are accompanied by satisfactory evidence that the missing portions have been totally destroyed. Such evidence must consist of affidavits, subscribed and sworn to before a notary public, setting forth the cause and manner of destruction. Occasionally even the ashes of burned money are identified by the treasury department and redeemed at face value. No relief is granted by the government to the owners of paper currency totally destroyed.

History of the Envelope Dates Back to Year 1755

In the British museum is a crude, hand-made envelope, measuring 4½ by 3 inches in which a letter was sent in 1696 by the Right Honorable Sir William Trumbull, then secretary of state of England, to Sir James Ogilvie of London. Also, in the British museum are envelopes used in the years 1755 and 1760 for the transmission of important government documents. It appears, however, envelopes were not in general use until almost a century afterward, says Envelope Economies.

The Japanese had used envelopes as containers for powders and scents for hundreds of years. Later, the French adopted the same custom. When the envelope was introduced for mailing purposes in England, it was regarded as a novelty but there seems some basis for a belief that envelopes had been used previously for mailing purposes in France. These were very dainty and made of the most expensive and delicate papers.

Book shops were the first envelope manufacturers, utilizing the spare time of their clerks to make envelopes. A bookseller in Brighton, England, a Mr. Brewer, is credited as being the first to make and sell envelopes commercially in England, about 1830.

The popularity of the envelope started in 1840, when Sir Rowland Hill established Penny Post in England. This changed the basis for postage to weight instead of the number of enclosures.

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

"Laugh and the world laughs with you; Weep and you weep alone" were lines written by Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

Take Oaths on Ant Hill

The Juangs, a jungle tribe of Orissa, India, take their most sacred oaths on an ant hill or tiger skin.

Word for "Hard Money"

Small wedges or coins used to stamp characters on metal gave us the word for "hard money."

ON THE SCREEN

by Movie-Goer



You'll thrill to an unforgettable love when you see Kay Francis and Errol Flynn, the screen's newest romantic team, try to put a lifetime of love into one fleeting moment in "Another Dawn," a Warner Bros. hit which comes to the New Lyceum Theatre on Wednesday and Thursday, July 14 and 15.

"A DAY AT THE RACES" . . . .

"A Day At The Races" brings the Marx Brothers—Groucho, Harpo and Chico—to the New Lyceum Theatre screen on Monday and Tuesday, July 12 and 13, in what is described as the maddest, merriest, most amusing piece of Marxmania that these inimitable comedians have ever delivered to an expectant public.

Directed by Sam Wood, who filmed the last Marx Brothers triumph, "A Night at the Opera," the new picture boasts a stellar cast of supporting names, including Maureen O'Sullivan in the feminine lead, and Allan Jones, who sings several new song hits, among them "On Blue Venetian Waters," "Tomorrow Is Another Day" and "A Message from the Man in the Moon."

Also prominent in the cast are Margaret Dumont, who has taken a lot of "punishment" from the Marx lunatics in previous pictures, Leonard Ceeley, Douglass Dumbrille, Charles Trowbridge, Esther Muir, Sigfried Rumann and Robert Middlemass.

The plot of "A Day at the Races," which shifts from a sanitarium to a race track, introduces Groucho Marx as "Dr. Hugo Z. Hackenbush," a horse doctor who takes charge of the sanitarium. Harpo Marx is seen as a jockey, and Chico as a race-track frequenter who sells good ice cream and bum tips on the races. Miss O'Sullivan plays the girl who is trying to keep the deep-dyed villain, Douglass Dumbrille, from foreclosing on her sanitarium. Jones plays the struggling singer who owns a race horse. Miss Dumont, enacting the type who likes to talk about her operations, is all for Groucho because he has told her that she has double blood pressure. Esther Muir is the slinky vampire who tries to "frame" Groucho but who gets pasted to the wall by Harpo and Chico, posing as paperhangers.

The Marx Brothers, with Sam Wood, who directed "A Night at the Opera," and a group of writers, worked for a year preparing "A Day at the Races" for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Laughs were submitted to the finetooth-comb test; nothing less than a "belly-laugh" was kept in.

The picture has a novel and glamorous production sequence. This takes place at a water carnival with the audience seated on floating rafts. There are scantily-attired girls around a fountain stage, the curtain for which is a natural water spray. Allan Jones sings from a barge and the Marx Brothers indulge in Marxmania throughout.



Groucho, Harpo and Chico Marx in "A Day at the Races"

And, of course, Chico plays the piano and Harpo does a harp number—with a bit of piano playing of his own thrown in.

On top of comedy and production comes thrills and excitement as the picture ends in a steeplechase race in which Allan Jones' horse must win. And even a race victory is achieved in a novel and typical Marxian manner.

"ANOTHER DAWN" . . . .

Going far afield for a picturesque setting for a movie, Warner Bros. this time chose Iraq (which used to be Arabia) as a locale. They placed a British garrison there, had its members surrounded by wild natives, and offered the problem of how the soldiers and their officers and wives were to be saved—if saved they might be.

"Another Dawn" is the name of the picture. It is scheduled to show at the New Lyceum Theatre on Wednesday and Thursday, July 14 and 15. Add to that situation the fact that Kay Francis is the lady most chiefly concerned—and that the two men who love her are Errol Flynn and Ian Hunter—and both have a chance to save her and the garrison—and you have the ingredients of real drama.

It all makes a very thrilling movie, and preview experts have put it up to the top of the list among the action and romance pictures of the year.

Errol Flynn is said to surpass his performance in that history-making movie, "The Charge of the Light Brigade." And it is said, too, that Hunter (once the idol of all the matinee girls in London) has the best opportunity that has come to him since the Warners imported him to play the Duke of Athens in "A Mid-summer Night's Dream."

There are mountains and deserts and a lot of fighting and some extremely daring airplane flying in "Another Dawn," the producers declare. Also a stirring climax when the time comes for one or the other of Miss Francis' adorers to save the garrison.

The man who directed "The Story of Louis Pasteur" and "The White Angel"—William Dieterle — guided the making of "Another Dawn." Besides the three stars, the cast includes such excellent players as Frieda Inescort, Herbert Mundin, Billy Bevan, Clyde Cook, Mary Forbes and G. P. Huntley, Jr.

"HOTEL HAYWIRE" . . . .

Let nine comedians loose in a hotel as crazy as the house that Jack built and the resulting picture should be something. That's what Paramount has done in its newest comedy, "Hotel Haywire," which comes to the New Lyceum on Friday and Saturday, July 16 and 17.

Headed by Leo Carrillo and Lynne Overman, the cast includes known comedians even in bit roles. Carrillo plays "Zodiac Zippe," astrologer and gentle racketeer, whose money-making activities include everything short of actual murder. Lynne Overman plays the role of a dentist who finds himself headed for divorce through a practical joke played on him by a poker playing friend.

Benny Baker, as a vaudeville actor turned detective, has an opportunity in "Hotel Haywire" to show how a detective should and shouldn't act. Assisted by his vaudeville partner, Collette Lyons, who makes her movie debut in this picture, Baker gets in Overman's hair while he and his partner trail both Overman and his wife, played by Spring Byington.

Miss Byington, remembered for her part in "Ah, Wilderness," adds a comic portrayal to her list of successful movie roles as the wife. Chester Conklin, former Mack Sennett comedian and Teddy Hart, whose few screen appearances have made him a man to watch, are cast as partners in a law firm involved in the divorce proceedings. George Barbier, Porter Hall, Mary Carlisle and John Patterson round out the cast.

"Hotel Haywire" was directed by George Archainbaud.

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